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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

9 February 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR THE INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SUBJECT : Intelligence Support for NSC 140 Project (USSR's Net Capability to Inflict Direct Injury on the US through Mid-1955)

REFERENCES: a. NSC 140, dated 19 January 1953.
b. Section II, IAC-D-1/2, dated 15 January 1953.
c. SE-14, dated 23 October 1951.
d. NIE-31, dated 4 September 1951.

1. Under NSC 140 a Special Evaluation Subcommittee of the NSC was constituted under the chairmanship of Lieutenant General Idwal H. Edwards, USAF. In representing the interests of the intelligence community in this Subcommittee, CIA proposes to prepare a summary special estimate of Soviet raw capabilities covering relevant questions of common interest among the IAC agencies. As the work of the Special Evaluation Subcommittee proceeds, further intelligence information may be required on a departmental basis.

2. Because of the highly sensitive nature of the NSC 140 project, it is requested that knowledge of the existence of this project be very closely held.

3. In order to satisfy this security requirement, the Office of National Estimates is now preparing a summary estimate of Soviet raw capabilities on the basis of existing intelligence reports and contributions to other estimates in process. It is planned to coordinate this estimate through the IAC machinery.

4. You are hereby requested to name a representative with whom this Office can consult in connection with the NSC 140 project. The responsibilities envisioned for such representative are as follows:

- a. To assist O/NE in the preparation of a new summary estimate of Soviet raw capabilities.

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Security Information

- b. To represent your agency in coordination of such an estimate prior to final IAC consideration.
- c. To supply the Subcommittee with such additional information on a departmental basis as may be required from time to time.

5. Your attention is invited to that provision of NSC 140 which empowers the Subcommittee to call upon any agency of the government for relative appraisals and information, subject only to appropriate security arrangements for handling and limitation of access to highly sensitive material, such as US war plans. It is hoped that your representative will have ready access to all intelligence sources and to such processed intelligence as may be available in your agency.

6. Please let me have the name of your representative as soon as possible. When this information has been received, we will call a meeting for the purpose of outlining more fully our recommendations for handling this problem in view of the early date by which an IAC approved estimate is certainly to be wanted. (Call Code 143, Extension 563.)


D/Asst. Director/Adm.
National Estimates

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